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East Lynn Community Centennial: Through
the Pages of Time, 1872 - 1972.

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY



East Lynn

COMMUNITY CENTENNIAL



FARM SCENE



L. E. & W. DEPOT

"Through the Pages of Time"

1872-1972

HOUSE BUILT BY H. M. LUDDEN.
In the background is a dwelling
made from the first school building
which is owned and occupied by
Charles R. Martin



EARLY STREET SCENE LOOKING NORTH



EARLY STREET SCENE LOOKING SOUTH

"Through the Pages of Time"

The title page must say East Lynne, but the frontispiece would be labeled Luddenville, because Luddenville, the forerunner of East Lynn, was situated three and one-half miles north and west in Fountain Creek Township, Iroquois County.

The Parmeus Luddens came from Massachusetts about 1857 and engaged in farming. Dr. B. M. Ludden came from Indianapolis in 1862. He reported that he found nothing but "grass and sky and sky and grass." Dr. Ludden bought into the farm and devoted his time and energies to improving the property. He had a far reaching vision. He saw the need for a post office, farmer's store and blacksmith shop. He went to work and established them along with a wind grist mill. He had begun to centralize, but after the advent of the Lafayette, Muncie, and Bloomington Railway a few miles to the south, Luddenville took a new lease on life on the railroad.

In July of 1872 the trains began running between Bloomington, Illinois, and Muncie, Indiana. On September 10, 1872, East Lynn consisted of a box car, sidetracked and used for railroad and express purposes. It stood just west of Snyder and Donovan's elevator (now Singleton Grain Co.). Then the Luddens moved in. They built a store adjoining the railroad tracks, just east of the depot.

The firm of B. M. Ludden consisted of a general mercantile business. H.M. Ludden managed the store, was a railroad worker, express agent and part time postmaster. As soon as this store was finished the post office was transferred from Luddenville with Dr. B. M. Ludden as postmaster. He served a total of seventeen years as postmaster at East Lynn and Luddenville. He was also the first supervisor of Fountain Creek Township. Dr. and Mrs. Ludden were surely our first commuters as they resided in East Lynn in the winter and went back to the farm for the summer.

H. M. Ludden had come to Illinois in 1855 and served 3 years in the Civil War. He then returned to Massachusetts but came back home in 1872. He must have taken over many of his brothers' interests. He was Justice of the Peace, deputy postmaster and U. S. Express agent. Beckwith states that, "East Lynne owes much of its success as a business place to H. M. Ludden."

It was assumed that the new town would be named for the Luddens, but Albert Gregory, who owned several farms south of town had a wife who liked to read. Her current interest was the novel *East Lynne*. This book was written by Mrs. Anna



EAST LYNN ELEVATOR

Stephens, and had an English setting. The book was made into a play and was very successful and was a real tear jerker. It played the old McFerren Opera House in Hoopeston in the middle Twenties. Half of the audience was from East Lynne. It has never been known when the "e" was dropped from the spelling.

East Lynn is situated in Vermilion County, Butler Township. Part of the school district is in Fountain Creek Township. Butler used to be a part of Middlefork Township, but by 1864 it was separated, had a supervisor who chose the name Butler

15178P

to honor the colorful Civil War leader, Benjamin Franklin Butler.

Historians say that it was strange that this vast prairie had not been opened up any sooner. By 1875, there were broad strips that had never been "vexed" by plow. This area was different from surrounding townships as there were no trees and no considerable stream. There were not many roads, but the old Danville-Ottawa road crossed the southwest corner of the township and the Bloomington-Attica road crossed the south part. Hundreds of people traveled this road each year visiting their relatives in Ohio and Indiana, so these people had to have a fair knowledge of the fertility and beauty of the territory. The old scholars had an adage which literally translated runs, "In matters of taste there is no use disputing." Our vernacular would be—to each, his own! At the time of the organization of the township there was not a solitary village, or post office or building of importance. The mail for the entire township was received at Blue Grass, which was a flourishing village.

As we turn another page we begin to see more people arriving, buying farms, and settling down to join others already here. Many of the farms in our community are still in direct lineage of the original owner. Some of which we have record are: Nathan M. Arnold bought 90 acres, which was all marsh, 1½ mile south and 1 mile west of East Lynn in 1865. The first year the family lived in a tent and the second year a house was built. The dining room and bedroom of the Keith Betka home are a part of the original Arnold House. Prairie fires were a source of fear to our early citizens. Early in 1872 the Arnolds saw the dreaded flames sweeping toward their home. Mr. Arnold placed his wife and their youngest daughter in a well until the danger was averted. Other owners have been William Arnold, Ella Denman, and now Wayne.

In 1866, Aaron Smith bought a farm 4½ miles north and one-half east and is presently owned by Geraldine Baier, daughter of the late Nye Smith. It is farmed by Carl Berg.

In 1871, George Hammerton bought 80 acres 4½ miles north and this land has had only one other owner, a grandson, Glenn Strom. Later he bought another 80 acres which was owned by Myrtle Hammerton Hayes.

About the same time, Samuel Cooling bought an adjoining farm of raw prairie which he improved and where he lived until the spring of 1893. Amy Cooling Wilson owned the land and now it is owned by her nephew, Francis Hall.

Samuel Umbanhowar bought 160 acres



OLD EAST LYNN POST OFFICE

southeast of East Lynn in the early 1870's. Forth Acres is presently owned by his grandson, Glenn Umbanhowar, who with his son Marvin, farm it today.

In 1875, Swen Johnson bought 160 acres one-half mile south and 1½ miles west. His son Leonard was born there and later owned the land. Now Arthur Johnson owns it and it is farmed by the Gary Johnsons. There have been five generations on this farm.

In 1881, John Adam Eisenmann bought 190 acres just west of Fountain Creek. It is owned and farmed by his grandson, Ray Eisenmann. His father, Charles Eisenmann, was owner until his death.

In 1882, Ludwig Erikson bought 160 acres north and west of town. It is now owned by a son-in-law, Gus Swanson, and farmed by Glenn Umbanhowar (son-in-law) and his son Marvin.

In 1883, Charles Betka bought 160 acres and farmed it until 1905. Then Raymond Betka became owner and farmed it until 1947. It is presently owned and farmed by Kenneth Betka.

Sylvester W. Wilson bought land 3½ miles south and west in the spring of 1889. Since 1924, these 160 acres have been owned by Wilbur Wilson.

Peter Bauer bought a farm of 200 acres north and east of East Lynn in 1890. In 1902, it was bought by a son Emil, who farmed it until his death. Presently it is owned by Herman, Andy, Elmer and Urban Bauer and is farmed by Herman.

Jacob Hoffmann bought 150 acres 3½ miles north, which was later owned by Andy Hoffmann and now is owned by Harry, Eunice and Edna Hoffmann and is farmed by Harry. Elmer Leigh bought 160 acres 1½ miles north and three-fourths of a mile west of town in 1891. It is presently owned and farmed by his son Dwight.

In 1885, Merrit A. Southwick bought land 2 miles east and just south of the S curve. Eighty acres of this land is owned by Miss Lillie Southwick, a daughter. At this time farms were going for \$2.50 to \$5 an acre. Some did sell for as high as \$9. By 1885 \$20—25 an acre was considered average.

The James Applegates were here by 1869. M. C. Small came in 1870. Aiken, Hall, French, Morey and Gardner were all here by 1879. They were all engaged in purchasing grain which was the principal business. The grain trade was, and is, of considerable importance. Beckwith relates that this was the center of one of the finest corn raising districts. Mr. Mercer, one of our oldest citizens relates that this area was jokingly called "Corn Cob." There were few cattle feeders so most of the corn had to go to market. Hogs were a staple, and considerable flax was raised here.

The original town was laid out on land belonging to W. P. Moore, T. J. Van Brunt, John P.

Dopps, Aiken and White. The story has been passed down by word of mouth that W. P. Moore and Aaron Smith came riding into town on horseback the same day. They had spent some time in Blue Grass. Mr. Moore stayed here and Mr. Smith went into Iroquois County to become a respected citizen, a large landowner and the possessor of a beautiful matched team of ponies. Mr. Moore moved a house in from Luddenville. It was the only house in East Lynn that was never wired for electricity. It was lighted by beautiful hanging kerosene lamps. The home was demolished in 1966.

The wild animal life was very prevalent. Mr. William Allen, a large landowner, recorded that there was not a tree or bush in sight. After he built his cabin, he stood in the doorway and counted sixty deer in one herd. At this time there were only three houses in East Lynn; but there were many badgers. They were of the thick-neck variety. They were bigger than the dogs. Both red and grey squirrels were in abundance. Rattlesnakes were everywhere and farmers killed about one hundred per season. But after the prairie grass, which had grown higher than a horse's belly, had been killed out, the rattlesnakes were not seen often. Prairie mud did not make a good home. One historian stated, "It is doubtful if any survived the shriek of the loco-



FIRST 2-STORY SCHOOL BUILT ON PRESENT SITE IN 1882



PRESENT HIGH SCHOOL BUILT IN 1915

motive or high taxes of modern civilization." Quail abounded for many years. Cranes and other water birds were in evidence because of so much marsh land. Prairie chickens were very plentiful. Our old settlers never tired of telling how they could be heard every fall morning, very early, for their call was a most unusual hollow "boom." The prairie chicken was a member of the grouse family and was migratory. They were an edible bird that was often trapped in the early morning and served for breakfast.

The first school house stood one-half mile north of the present site, but the growing population soon demanded a larger house, and so a two-story building rose on the present site in 1882. The original school was moved into town and made into a dwelling now owned and occupied by Charles Martin.

As more pages turned, the need was seen for a more modern building. On February 22, 1914, a special election was called to decide whether or not to have an East Lynn High School District. On March 25, 1914, the school board, composed of Charles Darrough (president), Dr. R. D. Van Doren (secretary), Elmer S. Leigh, John C. Clements, Charles Hall, William J. Martin and J. N. Harkness, conducted its first meeting to discuss the new building.

On April 11, 1914, a second special election was held at which time it was decided there should be a new school building and that it should occupy the Leemon site where the other school building stood. By 1915, the four-year high school was completed. The first graduating class was Lawrence Anderson now of Roberts, Illinois, Edith Luxton McConnell and Esther Erickson. The first term (1915-16) in the new building saw an enrollment of 23 high school pupils. Charles LeSaux (Blanche's husband) was the first janitor. In 1916 Jesse Grove took over and served faithfully until 1952. Steve Hill has been the janitor at East Lynn since July 1, 1953. In 1925 a new gymnasium was built. It was dedicated November 6, 1925, by a game of basketball with Rankin, in which East Lynn won 19-8.

In 1935 a farm shop and farm mechanics building with a three bus garage was erected, but was torn down in 1961 and replaced with a modern four-bus garage and Industrial Arts shop, south of the new grade school. In 1951, a cafeteria was built on the west of the gymnasium. Several country schools—Carey, Leemon, Newman, Rodman, Pine Grove, Arnold, Science Hill, Wilson and Schwartz— had fed their eighth grade graduates into the high school. With the spreading of consolidation, a new



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH BUILT IN EAST LYNN
IN 1875

brick building was added to take care of the influx of grade school children in 1956.

In 1935, a system of transportation was begun with Carl Smock (Eileen McCord's father) and Bobby Boehme (Margo Shank's father) as the first drivers. Before this many children had walked, ridden bikes, come on horseback or had driven carriages. They left the horses in some neighbors' barn during school hours. A few students boarded in town for the duration or through the winter months.

The first Methodist Church was built in East Lynn in 1875, under the pastorate of Rev. Muirhead. Meetings had been held in homes since 1869. The present building was erected in 1915. The Christian Church occupied the earlier building on alternate Sabbaths. The entire community joined in a union Sabbath School which was reportedly well-maintained. Mr. J. S. Hall was the first Sunday School Superintendent.

A Baptist Society was formed which moved a building in from Luddenville. It was placed next to the Methodist Church. It was always reported that on warm Sundays the hymns could be heard as well in one church as the others. Old Timers loved to tell of the time one congregation sang *Will There Be Any Stars In My Crown?* and the other retaliated with *No, Not One*. Another well related story was one of one clergyman berating the use of liquor. Just as he wished that he could throw every bottle into the deepest river, the other congregation queried in song *Shall We Gather At The River?* The Methodists and Baptists merged and evidently absorbed the Christian congregation.

The old Bethel Methodist Church stood across from the Urban Kaeb home, north of town. It was attended by the Hammertons, Coolings (Lowell Hall's grandparents), Thompsons, Stroms, Hixons, W. J. Martins, N. A. McCords and others

until it was removed to Claytonville to house a Methodist Church for several years. North of town other church services were held for several years in the Eisenmann home. Grandpa Ziegenhorn was the minister. Some of the families attending were: Landes, Eisenmann, Alt, Bahr, and Ziegenhorn. By 1881, services were held in a frame church (across from the Fred Stock home) of another faith. Mr. Adam Eisenmann was the minister. By 1890, this congregation was relocated across from where the present Apostolic Christian Church now stands. The burials at the old cemetery were around 1890. After some of the grave stones deteriorated, one large stone was erected by the Apostolic Christian Church near Cissna Park. Many of our forebearers were affiliated with this church.

The East Lynn cemetery was begun with the death of Frank Hall's wife in 1876. Since they owned and occupied the farm where the Melvin Andersons now reside, they donated three acres to be used as a cemetery. One acre has since been purchased.

As history has been unfolding, several pages have been turned. East Lynn was growing in population and businesses. The railroad had been running four passengers a day in addition to innumerable freights carrying grain, coal and lumber. The L.B.M.



OLD BAPTIST CHURCH

had sold out to the Lake Erie. Later the New York Central assumed ownership. They, in turn, were bought out by the Nickel Plate. The last passenger train ran on Saturday in June, 1950. All along the route many old timers had turned out to say a sad farewell to this chapter of railroading. Several from this area took the last ride east to Hoopeston. Among those were Mr. Jay Q. Denman, long-time station agent, his son, Wayne Arnold Denman, Mrs. Floyd Isenhower, Mr. W. J. Martin, and Mrs. Faye Hayes. Faye had the distinction of purchasing the last ticket ever sold in East Lynn. Mrs. Eva Moore Southwick had the honor of seeing the first and last passenger come from the west. Mrs. Southwick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Moore, pioneer farmers, was playing outside on the Moore "eighty," when she heard the sound of a locomotive's whistle: She ran for her mother and the other children to come and see the train. The day of the last run she was too ill to go to East Lynn to ride the cars, so her daughter, Miss Lillie Southwick, took her to the Hoopeston Depot to hear the "Swan Song" of the last passenger train.

To unfurl another page in East Lynn's history, Oscar Omar Ross, grandfather of Harold and Donald Moore, came here from Ohio in 1875. He

was a harness maker, repaired jewelry and sewing machines, owned a lumber yard which he later sold to Ed Shipp (Eileen Luxton's grandfather). Mr. Ross was very musical and was the leader of the East Lynn band in which he played first cornet. He also played flute, violin and piano and gave lessons on all. He started the first bank. One-half of the original bank now stands south of the tracks and is used by Singleton's Grain Co. for storage. The other half was made into a dwelling and is owned and occupied by Floyd Isenhower and his family. Mr. Ross employed Frank P. McCord as cashier. Mr. T. G. Luxton bought the bank in 1900. Mr. McCord remained as cashier and later Mr. Charles Martin and Miss Anna Gustafson were employed. Mr. Luxton was the president of the bank until its liquidation in 1933. Mr. Luxton had come to East Lynn in 1875 from England by way of Lockport, Illinois. He was a blacksmith and a large landowner. His influence was felt for many years as he helped the community grow and prosper.

Mr. N. R. Hall opened a lumber yard, hardware and implement store very early in the town's history. His store was very well stocked and it was a delight to see all the lovely dishes on display. When Mr. Hall died, his wife ran the store with the help



PRESENT DAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



EAST LYNN DEPOT

of Ora Dazey (Bessie Martin's father). Later Chester Montross, who had married Nettie B. Hall, ran the store until Guy Hayes bought it in 1926.

When Mr. and Mrs. Ninian A. McCord and sons moved to Luddenville in the early 1880's, they found an "almost ghost town." Mr. McCord farmed and taught the Leemon School. With the large influx of German speaking people, the English speaking people needed to know some German. Since Mr. McCord spoke fluent German, he held night classes in East Lynn. Mr. T. G. Luxton and Mr. N. R. Hall were two of his "apt" students.

The original post office was behind the frame store which stood on the site of the present Reutter Apartments. It burned on July 4, 1893. This was the post office in which the Luddens had been active. Marion Hall (Mrs. Alta Hall's father-in-law) was postmaster from 1893-1897. At this time the post office was south of the tracks on the east side of the street. In 1897, N. M. Arnold built the next post office on the west side of the street, north of the tracks and served as postmaster until 1909. In 1910, Miss Maude Palmer was appointed postmistress. She held this position until her retirement in 1946. Mrs. Wilmer Johnson (Marie Severinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thor Severinson, previous grocers) served for ten years. At this time (1957)

Mrs. Jack Mitchell (Arvonna Barr) took over and is still postmistress in the post office on the east side of the street, south of the tracks which they opened September 8, 1958.

An early business house, built by William McReynolds housed the first hotel. Two other hotels were better known as the railroad brought in many travelers and transients. The Gaffney House was a beacon for many until it burned. Mrs. Janet Harris, Aunt Nanny and Aunt Mary Harris operated the Harris' Hotel for many years. They boasted the first concrete walks in town and the first Edison phonograph, with a large Morning Glory horn. The drummers (salesmen) on their frequent returns would bring new cylinder records. The hotel is now the home and property of Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Johnson and Terri.

The biggest growth period was between 1891 and 1909. At that time there were two churches, a bank, four millinery and dress making shops, two general stores, two elevators, two blacksmith shops, two hotels, one drug store, one butcher shop, barber shops, one hardware store, one restaurant, one lumber yard, one stockpen and loading dock, a tomato factory, tile factory, jewelry and watch repair, one shoe store and two livery barns.



ORIGINAL BANK BUILDING

The livery stable was run by Mr. Jack Smock. Drivers had to be on beck and call at all hours of the day or night to take the various doctors on their "sick calls." Sometimes they rented their teams and carriages to dependable drivers. For those who didn't have barns, the livery stable owners fed and cared for individual horses. With the advent of cars, Mr. Smock turned his stable into a garage.

Mr. E. C. Kelley and Mr. William J. Haley (Earl's dad) ran grocery stores for some time. Haley's Ice Cream Emporium, with its marble top counter and large mirrored walls, was patronized by the young people after school. They also had a restaurant and a general merchandise store. It stood where McConnell's grocery, which has been a present-day landmark, is.

Dr. J. Brown was the first physician. His brother, John, was the first dentist. John Dopps was the first Justice of Peace, preceding H. M. Ludden. Other physicians who have served are: Dr. Wilson, Dr. Fallis, Dr. Auburn, Dr. Day, Dr. Mayhugh, Dr. Berry, Dr. Rothgeb, Dr. Feltch, Dr. Will Van Doren, and our longtime doctor—Raymond Fleming Van Doren. He and Mrs. Van Doren came to East Lynn in 1912 and resided here until his death in May of 1952. He was truly a dedicated doctor and served through the terrible "flu" epidemic of 1918.

Fred Anderson was the only shoemaker ever to locate here. He was situated on the east side of the street, about where the present post office is. He also repaired shoes, harness and boots. The school boys were regular customers as he sewed their baseballs and mitts free of charge. He was fondly referred to as "Little Grandpa." He was Agda Grove's grandfather.

Three lodges held meetings once a week for

a goodly number of years. The last to disband was The Knights of Pythias. Their hall has been used, often, for social events. Many oyster suppers were served to huge crowds every fall and winter. Ira Storm had a garage on the first floor for several years.

James Reid, founder of Reid's Yellow Dent Corn, lived on the Lawrence Farm in 1902. He used extreme care in selecting his seed. Ears were carefully chosen when husked and were air dried with watchful concern. The corn was noted for its vigor, heavy yield, uniformity of color, large ears with deep rough grains and high food value. His corn became widely known in 1893 at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. His slogan was "Have your corn dry at husking time and keep it dry."

For a little town there has been much activity. Fourth of July was always celebrated with parades and fireworks. The homes were decorated with bunting and flags. The parades featured the best horsemanship for miles around. The town band performed, in uniform, in the park. Of course, there was a ball game in the afternoon.

The ball games which involved the school always drew good crowds. The little league teams have been successful under the sponsorship of the Methodist Men and the tutelage of Carl "Butch" Robertson. The whole area has been proud of the teams which carried out our name and colors.

The town pump (later pumps) had its place in the social life of the community. Several families carried their drinking water from there. The downtown workers took their respective tin cups to the well several times a day. They usually met for a bit of "chit chat." Perhaps this was the forerunner of our present-day coffee breaks. There was a trough for horses, and a low trough for dogs. The kids either used their hands or the tin cup which hung there for the itinerant passerby.

After World War I was declared many troop trains went through. The school students would rally round the flag at the depot and wave tearful, fond farewells to the boys riding through. We sent our share of boys to World Wars I and II, the Korean conflict, and to Viet Nam. Some never did come back home to us.

The Service Honor Roll bears the name of all the boys who were on foreign soil. This Honor Roll was dedicated June 24, 1945. The deed to the ground was presented by Guy Hayes, accepted by Jess Hayes, President of the Brotherhood. A representative of World War I was Earl Hayes, and of World War II, John Andrew Hofer. Mrs. Dan Martin and Mrs. Rual Abbott, Gold Star Mothers, un-

veiled the Honor Service Board. Other boys lost in action in World War II, in addition to LeRoy Daniel Martin and Homer Abbott, were Perry Lee Olson, Raymond Bauer and Clay Devin. Alan Hayes was killed in action in the Korean Conflict.

In the early 20's a paved road had been laid through East Lynn. In 1927-28, it extended on to Fountain Creek. Many people had cars at this time. Four of the first cars were owned by Ed Kelley, grocer; H. H. Tucker, grain dealer; John Clements, blacksmith and contractor; and, Walter Luxton, farmer. It was a wonder that anyone tied up all that money in cars when they had to jack them up and leave them in barns all winter, covered up with a tarpaulin.

Skating on the old tile pond provided many hours of winter fun. At night whole families would venture forth on the ice. Bonfires were built along the shore line as a source of light and heat. There were many youngsters and oldsters who could cut a figure eight. Sledding and bobsledding were also fun filled events as well as a way of winter travel. There were often rows of sleighs and bobsleds tied up at the hitch racks as people did their shopping.

In the summer, there was always a game of horse shoes in the park. There were stakes set up in the alleys for the nonprofessionals. One could always get in on a friendly game of croquet in almost

any yard, especially the Hammertons. Herb was very proficient.

Medicine shows passing through brought much activity from the putting up of the tent until the end of their stay. They put on variety shows, sold their compounds which promised everything, and their candy was almost guaranteed to pull teeth.

The gypsies added excitement to the summer months. They would camp at the school where the men spent the day sleeping in the shade of their wagons while the women went about telling fortunes if their hands were crossed with silver (or an outgrown pair of shoes). The women and girls were dressed very colorfully in velvet dresses, long earrings, and many bracelets. Many Rhode Island Red, Plymouth Rock, and White Rock hens disappeared at this time. No action was ever taken. Presumably the owners wrote it off to missions or good-will. In contrast the same band of gypsies camped at the Ed Mutton farm, summer after summer, in the orchard. They never bothered anything and even offered to pay for privileges.

The elections were something to be anticipated and celebrated. Early in the fall the young ladies went to their milliners and got hat bands with their favorite candidate's name emblazoned on them. There were torch light parades, speeches, and



THE HARRIS HOTEL



JAMES REID HOME, LAWRENCE ESTATE

bonfires. Tempers and feelings ran high and some men were cooled off by a dip in the horse tank.

Tramps were seen often in town. Their favorite mode of travel was by hopping freights. Since so many freights went through, it was not unusual to be asked for a handout several times a week. Supposition was that if the tramp got a good meal, he would "mark" the house for the next way-

farer. This must have had a grain of truth, for they would appear early and late at many back doors.

The school children took field trips in the spring. Usually they consisted of a nature walk down the railroad track to the east or west bridge. The trip to the west bridge had more adventure. Its added attraction was a walk over the swinging bridge on the Mayhugh property (now Clarence Clark's north farm). The brave souls ran across, but the more timid ones hung on to its one cable.

Every Friday night marked an exciting evening in the summer. This was "free movie" night. Everyone got his chores done early and got to town to get a good parking place. These movies were sponsored by the merchants.

Mr. Jacob Funk bought Mr. John Clement's blacksmith shop in 1932. He had rented it for two years. With acquisition, he moved the shop from its old location across the street where it is now located. Paul Greene took possession in 1966. He is our present blacksmith, welder and implement salesman. With retirement, Mr. Funk became interested in bees. His son-in-law, Darl Stoller, is in the bee business. In the spring of the year, the bees are fed sugar; in July the honey is taken off. Mr. Funk is an active member of the Bee Keeper's Associa-



W. J. HALEY'S STORE

tion. They meet regularly and discuss ways of betterment to their business.

That this was, and is, a good grain center can be attested to by the elevators which have served and are now serving the community. Snyder and Donovan had the west elevator until 1903. H. H. Tucker owned it until 1909 when J. A. Mouch bought him out. In 1912, George Merritt and William Wireman took ownership. The next year Leonard Singleton and Guy Merritt became co-owners. In 1949, Singleton's bought Merritt's share. In 1947, Dale Singleton came in to work with his father and in 1956 the elder Mr. Singleton became inactive. Since his death on October 24, 1961, Dale has solely taken over the reins and has continued to carry on successfully. A. J. White owned the east elevator until 1916, when he sold it to J. J. Eckman. Mr. Eckman leased his elevator to Singletons. They bought it in 1955 for storage.

Swing's elevator is situated in Fountain Creek. The Hopwood Brothers were the original owners. The elevator was sold, and resold, to D. A. Smith (Aaron's son). He, in turn, sold to C. O. Long. Mr. Long ran the business for years with his son, Glen. In 1941, Joe Swing came to help out during the war years. When Marvin, Joe's son, returned from his tour of army duty in 1946, he and his father bought the elevator. This has also been a successful venture. Marvin has added much storage space over the years. It is interesting to note that Fountain Creek is actually Hopwood. The deeds and legal papers are thus recorded. The rumor

is that the Hopwoods had some financial difficulty which affected many of the inhabitants. The enraged citizenry, who did not care to bear the name any longer, took it upon themselves to change the name. Since the creek was so bubbly, clean and clear enough to see the river bed all along its course, some nature lover must have suggested the liltting name of Fountain Creek.

The first telephone lines were strung by a Mr. Getz, a farmer, living in this vicinity. Since many people looked upon the telephone as nonessential, they were not readily adopted. Joe Davis and a Mr. Samuels, from Indiana, bought out Getz and organized the 4C Telephone Company (four counties). The 4C was later sold to the Sloans from Rankin. In 1955 the Champaign Telephone Company took over and remained owners until 1968. Now the Eastern Illinois Telephone Corporation heads our connection. The Carl Larson home (now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Jake Funk and Melba) was the center of the first exchange. Later, as people realized the importance of telephones, there were many more subscribers. The equipment was moved to H. M. Ludden's old office. When the John McDonalds came here in 1906, they moved the exchange into their home. Mr. McDonald worked for the railroad and Mrs. McDonald operated the switchboard. Her familiar "hallo" can be remembered by many.

The electricity came in some time in May of 1915. It is recalled that when the Methodist Church was dedicated on May 4, 1915, a generator



SERVICE HONOR ROLL



PAVING CREW BUILDING THE EAST LYNN ROAD

had to be put in Mrs. Lillian Yeazel's wellhouse to create power for that day. The lines were completed within the week. Lights could only be used at night. This power was generated at Rankin by a gasoline engine. The company was owned by C. J. Crump. Central Illinois Public Service Company has furnished electricity for many years. R. E. A. came into many homes during the years between 1938 and 1943. City gas became available to East Lynn residents in April of 1969.

The Rankin Fire Protection District was organized June 22, 1948. The formulating trustees were Louis Thaden, Harry Walder, and Jess Grove. This is a tax supported district. The first truck, which was housed in Rankin, arrived June 3, 1949. On January 3, 1950, a truck was delivered to East Lynn. Howard McConnell was the first fire chief for East Lynn. By the end of 1953, the East Lynn fire station was completed and in use. The present Board of Trustees consists of Louis Thaden, Jack Mitchell, and Robert Cochran. Richard (Dick) Wilson is the fire chief at this time. This fire protection

district has been a comfort, as East Lynn was plagued by fires for many years. The East Lynn firemen do an excellent job of protecting the residents of the town and vicinity. Much valuable property has been saved due to their quick response and expert fire-fighting methods.

As we go to press, the East Lynn Community Water System, Inc., is almost completed. The water was first tasted on June 12, 1972, by Albert and Charles Martin. The land for the well was donated by Amos Steiner. The work was done by Bement Plumbing Company. Mr. Charles Davis headed the steering committee.

As we close this chapter on East Lynn and its surrounding area, and begin looking forward to another era, may we ever be mindful of the trust that our forebears put in God. Without His help they could never have achieved so much in this little town; which was cradled in literature, nurtured by the song of the rails, and came to its maturity as a good agricultural center. Rural America has always been the strength of the United States of America. May it ever exist!



E. C. KELLEY'S STORE (1915)



MRS. N. R. HALL'S HARDWARE



OLD HOME OF F. P. McCORD,
decorated for the Fourth of July.

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STUCK IN THE SNOW
two miles east of town—1915



TO THE RESCUE!



AN EARLY BASEBALL TEAM.
Fred Bishop was the manager.

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